Personal Statement: Things to Think About

Opening Section

• Hook: Catch the attention of the reader

Body Section

• How have your academic, internship, and/or professional work experiences prepared you for this particular graduate program?
• What unique perspectives are you bringing to the program?
• What is your area of interests?
• What are you interested in researching? Which professor would you like to work with? Why?
• How will this program bring you from where you are (Point A) to your future career goal (Point B)?

Closing Section

• Why this particular graduate program?
• How will this particular graduate program help you achieve your goals?
• Tie the hook and the body to close up the personal statement

The PARY Method

In a personal statement, we want to show (illustrate) rather than just make statements. For demonstrating a certain characteristic or addressing difficulties, PARY Method is a great way in showing concrete examples of what you’ve done.

P – What Problem did you face?

A – What Action did you take?

R – What was the Result?

Y – Why (Y) the admissions committee should care
Thought Outline

What do you have to offer the program?

What do you wish to get out of the program? What interests you about this particular program?

What is your desired area of study and career goals?